

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 374

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain crimes or other misconduct at medical facilities under the jurisdiction of that Secretary and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain crimes or other misconduct at medical facilities under the jurisdiction of that Secretary and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Personal Se-  
5       curity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION TO AND INVESTIGATION BY LOCAL**  
2 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF REPORTS**  
3 **OF A MISSING PATIENT OR OF CERTAIN**  
4 **CRIMES AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT DE-**  
5 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**  
6 **FACILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 38, United  
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
9 ing new section:

10 **“§ 906. Reports of missing patients and of certain**  
11 **crimes or other misconduct: notification**  
12 **to and investigation by local law enforce-**  
13 **ment agencies**

14 “(a) If the Department receives notice of a reportable  
15 allegation described in subsection (b), the Secretary—

16 “(1) shall provide notice of such allegation to  
17 appropriate local law enforcement agencies—

18 “(A) immediately; and

19 “(B) in writing within 48 hours;

20 “(2) shall provide, to any appropriate local law  
21 enforcement agency conducting an independent in-  
22 vestigation of such allegation, access to the Depart-  
23 ment medical facility as the agency reasonably re-  
24 quires; and

1           “(3) shall not impede or impair any appropriate  
2           local law enforcement agency from conducting an  
3           independent investigation of such allegation.

4           “(b) A reportable allegation referred to in subsection  
5 (a) is an allegation that any of the following has occurred  
6 at a Department medical facility:

7           “(1) A patient is missing.

8           “(2) A patient or staff member has caused  
9           physical abuse or battery to a patient or staff mem-  
10          ber.

11          “(3) A patient or staff member has unlawfully  
12          possessed or used a controlled substance.

13          “(4) A rape or any other felony or indictable of-  
14          fense has been committed.”.

15          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
17 at the end the following new item:

“906. Reports of missing patients and of certain crimes or other misconduct:  
notification to and investigation by local law enforcement agen-  
cies.”.

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